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DEVELOPMENT OF COAL CLEANING, OPEN-PIT MINING IN THE USSR COAL INDUSTRY

COAL CLEANED ON LARGE SCALE -- Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 9 Jun 53

The mechanical cleaning of coal was started during the Stalin five-year plans when very large coal-cleaning plants were constructed in the Donbass, the Kuzbass, Karaganda, and at coke by-products plants. The speed in erecting such enterprises was particularly great during the Fourth Five-Year Plan. The productive capacity of the country's coal-cleaning plants is now four times what it was 10 years ago. In 1952, half of all the coking coal extracted in the country and nearly all coal extracted for coking by the Kuzbassugol' Combine was cleaned.

As a result of cleaning, a high-grade, low-ash concentrate is obtained. The improvement in the quality of the coal has enabled workers in metallurgical plants to utilize their blast furnaces more efficiently. Consumption of fuel has decreased in the gasification of coal and in burning it in locomotives. Furthermore, the removal of ash and sulfur from the coal relieves the railroad of transporting thousands of trainloads of excessive waste.

Modern installations for mechanizing the cleaning of coal are large enterprises equipped with the most modern techniques. In them are found jiggging machines with automatic control, flotation machines, highly productive screening devices, drying installations, centrifuges, and other equipment designed by Soviet scientists, designers, machine builders, and exploitation workers.

Soviet specialists have made many innovations in coal-cleaning methods. They have solved the problem of utilizing coal fines formed at the face as a result of the extensive mechanization of mining processes. The flotation process, used in this connection, is based on the fact that, when coal mixed with rock is immersed in certain oil solutions, the coal rises to the surface and the rock sinks. In 1952, hundreds of thousands of tons of high-grade coking coal were obtained from coal fines processed in flotation machines of the Ministry of the Coal Industry in the Donbass and Karaganda.

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The USSR has also developed a mechanical method for cleaning lignite, which is mined in large quantities. The first experimental installations for this purpose have been set up in the Urals, at the Volchansk and Kamyshin deposits.

An extensive program for developing the cleaning and briquetting of coal is to be carried out during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

OPEN-PIT MINING SPONSORED BY MINISTRY -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 27 May 53

The Ministry of the Coal Industry USSR is carrying out measures to increase coal mining by the open-pit method, in which operations are started directly from the surface without constructing mines. In an interview with a Tass correspondent, M. M. Sokolovskiy, chief engineer of the Main Administration for Open-Pit Mining, revealed the following data on the scope of the work:

Millions of tons of coal are being mined yearly in open pits of the Urals, Central Asia, Siberia, the Far East, and the Ukraine. The working of coal deposits by this method makes it possible to mechanize production processes extensively and assures high labor productivity with a minimum capital outlay. Production costs by this method are one third of those incurred by the underground method.

Large, new coal pits will be put in operation during the next 2 years which will greatly increase the quantity of coal extracted in open-pit mining. The construction of open pits has also been started in the Moscow basin.

USSR open pits are being provided with the most modern equipment. Excavators of special design will operate in them to assure the extraction of coal from deeper levels, and powerful electric locomotives will be available to transport the coal. The laying of railroads over which trainloads of coal and rock pass is completely mechanized.

The so-called nontransport method of overburden removal is also spreading. By this method, the rock covering the coal seam is not conveyed to the dumps by railroad cars but is transferred by excavator to the worked-out area. This reduces even more the costs of coal extraction.

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